I. Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces without prejudice all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (previously presented) A multi-wavelength laser source (MWLS) system, comprising:

(a) first and second monochromatic lasers having first (f_1) and second (f_2) lasing frequencies, respectively;

(b) means for amplifying combined signals of said first and second lasers;

(c) means for multiplying using non-linear optical effects the amplified combined signals to expand the coverage of the wavelength channels so as to yield comb-like multi-channel WDM laser signals comprising a plurality of more than two channels separated from each other by a frequency equal to the difference between f1 and f2.

2. (previously presented) The system as defined in claim 1, said means for multiplying comprising a plurality of serially interconnected optical fiber sections each section having respective predetermined propagation characteristics for said amplified combined signals which differ from

respective predetermined propagation characteristics of any neighbouring sections.

3. (original) The system as defined in claim 2, said predetermined propagation characteristics being propagation mode, dispersion and length.

4. (currently amended) The system as defined in claim [[3]] 2, said plurality of serially interconnected fiber sections being five having lengths L_1, L_2, L_3, L_4 and L_5, respectively, L_1 being the first section, and L_5 being the last section.

5. (original) The system as defined in claim 4, the third fiber section being a single mode fiber (SMF) section.

6. (original) The system as defined in claim 5, the first, second, fourth and fight fiber section being dispersion shifted fiber (DSF) sections.

7. (original) The system as described in claim 6, which L_1 = 1.1 km, L_2 = 1.1 km, L_3 = 20 m, L_4 = 1 km and L_5 = 1 km.

8. (original) The system as defined in claim 7,

said fine fiber section, having associated dispersion value, D_1 to D_5 as follows: D_1 = -0.399; D_2 = 0.402; D_3 = 16; D_4 = 0.402 and D_5 = -0.399, all in units of ps/km/nm.

9. (original) The system as described in claim 8, wherein f1 and f2 correspond to wavelengths in the vicinity of 1550 nm.

Claim 10 (cancelled)

11. (previously presented) A system as defined in claim 2 comprising means for modulating said first and second monochromatic lasers when the first and second monochromatic lasers are lasing by a very low frequency signal whereby Stimulated Brillouin Scattering of the amplified combined signals is reduced.